

University of Missouri Extension



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Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District

Quarterly Newsletter

January, February, March 2010

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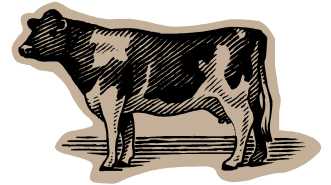
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*Preserving Soil & Water
through Conservation*

Avoid Injury by Staying Alert Around All Cattle

Many local farmers can tell a tale of a quick jump over a fence or back into the truck when a mama cow or a bull got a little testy. Ordinarily, little damage is done, apart from a quickened heartbeat and little sweat on the brow, but that kind of situation can end up with bruises, broken bones or worse.



"Most of the victims have been experienced cattle producers, veterinarians, agriculture educators and even Extension specialists," said Eldon Cole, livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension. "I imagine they're wiser and more cautious as a result of the attack."

Statistics support the fact that farming is one of the most dangerous occupations. According to Amanda Marney, agriculture preparedness specialist, University of Missouri Extension, national data shows livestock, machinery and falls as the dominant sources of occupational injury on farms.

"In fact, some studies show that up to one-third of injuries on the farm are associated with livestock," said Marney. "While many cattle are placid, they weigh over six times the weight of a man and can crush bones with a single kick, step or charge." It is important that all livestock owners recognize the different behavior factors when working around livestock.

In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study that documented farm worker fatalities in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. There were 21 cattle-related deaths in these four states from 2003 to 2008. Of these deaths, 10 involved attacks by individual bulls, six involved attacks by individual cows and five involved multiple cattle.

According to Cole, the attacks reported to him have resulted from animals that had never acted aggressive toward their owners before. "Some may even have been show animals that otherwise were very docile," said Cole. Victims usually can recall that on the day of the attack some unusual circumstances could have caused the animal to blow up, according to Cole.

"Cows are more prone to do this if you're doing something to their newborn calf and you get between the cow and her baby. Dogs may irritate her, and she could take out her frustrations on the nearest intruder, which could be the owner," said Cole. Bulls tend to become aggressive around cows that are in heat or when other bulls invade their spaces.

"Don't assume that an animal that's halter broken or that you've petted out in the pasture won't have a bad day and their hormones take over. When this occurs, bulls or cows can surprise you at how fast they move," said Cole. "Your big beef or dairy bull will be quicker than you expect."

Cole says there are several tips that can be followed to help avoid injuries from cows or bulls.

University of Missouri, Lincoln University,
U.S. Department of Agriculture & Local
Extension Councils Cooperating

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disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran.

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Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District

FSA Targets Funds for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

USDA Farm Service Agency announced the availability of farm operating and farm ownership loans for women and members of minority groups who want to purchase or operate a family-size farm.

Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities. Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives.

While funding is earmarked for loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged applicants must meet the same eligibility criteria as other applicants.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations; have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm; possess legal capacity to incur debt; and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere. The agency can make direct loans to applicants who are unable to get commercial credit or provide loan guarantees to commercial lenders.

Guaranteed loans may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System). FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of the loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Applicants can use operating loans to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years.

Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct ownership loan terms are up to 40 years while guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender.

Qualified applicants receive information and assistance to develop sound management practices, analyze problems and utilize available resources essential for successful farming operations to cope with the changing agricultural environment. To learn more about FSA Farm Loan programs, contact your local Farm Service Agency at (573) 756-6488 or visit online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

No-till Drill
Available to Rent
\$8.00 per Acre

Call 573-546-6518
For more information



Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The FSA is authorized to implement the program through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain.
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than whole grain.
- Pulse crops—lentils, chickpeas and dry peas.
- Hay; renewable biomass; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables—cold storage facilities.

The following types of facilities and upgrades are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

New conventional cribs or bins; oxygen-limiting structures; flat-type storage structures; electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment; safety equipment as required by CCC and meeting OSHA requirements; equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain; concrete foundations, aprons, pits and pads; permanently affixed grain handling and drying equipment as determined by CCC; bunker-type, horizontal or open silo structures; structures suitable for storing hay; structures suitable for storing renewable biomass; cold storage buildings which may include permanently affixed cooling, circulating, monitoring and electrical equipment.

Renovation of existing farm storage, under certain circumstances, if the renovation is for maintaining or replacing items that have a useful life of at least 15 years.

An FSA farm storage facility loan must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started and must be built according to guidelines.

For more information and a complete list of eligibility and requirements, contact the local FSA office at (573) 756-6488 or visit the web site at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Soil test kits are available through the Extension office

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Soil Savers Corner

Wintery Weather Word Search Puzzle

Blizzard	Skiing
Fireplace	Sleet
Frost	Snow
Icicle	Snowman
Skating	Soup

F	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	S
I	R	S	C	U	K	M	N	N
R	E	M	K	Z	D	O	Z	O
E	N	L	O	I	W	L	F	W
P	Z	T	C	R	I	P	H	M
L	E	S	K	I	C	N	L	A
A	S	O	U	P	C	O	G	N
C	D	R	A	Z	Z	I	L	B
E	O	F	S	L	E	E	T	U

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"For starters, always be careful around livestock and have an escape route planned, such as going under or over a fence or through a man pass," said Cole.

It is also a good idea to carry some device that offers some protection in case of attack. Even though dogs can provoke an animal, they can also sometimes help the owner escape. Nose rings in bulls can help control cattle in some situations.

"Remember, you're not getting any younger and may not move as quickly as you once did," said Cole. "It is also a good idea to have another person with you when working with newborns or moving bulls."

Cole also says it is important to cull animals that behave aggressively. "Temperament or docility is a heritable trait, and if you fear some animals in your herd are inherently mean, pay more attention to that trait when you select replacements. A few breed associations even have docility EPDs," said Cole.

Another recommendation is to not be in a hurry and end up being careless. "Easy-does-it" is a good policy around livestock.

"You also need to keep fences and gates in good repair and sturdy enough to protect you and your help," said Cole. For more information, contact Iron County Extension, 250 Main Street in Ironton, 573-546-7515.

Small Farm Conference

Are you looking to start a new farming business, make changes to your current one or even add to your operation? The 2010 Small Farm Conference is just the place to hear about new ideas, resources and even finances for your farm.

Topics include: organic requirements, marketing your products, composting/vermiculture, resources/finances/grants, managing cattle and trees through silvopasture, grass fed beef and selling beef off the farm, and using high tunnels to extend the growing season.

The conference will be held Monday, March 8th and Monday, March 15 at the Black River Electric Cooperative building in Fredericktown from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening. There is no charge for attending and a meal will be provided to each participant. **Please pre-register by March 1st** to the Madison County Extension office at 573-783-3303. Registration forms are also available on the Madison County website at www.extension.missouri.edu/madison.

Conference made possible by a grant from the WIRED Initiative, a Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri project. University of Missouri Extension is an equal opportunity/ADA institution.

Cattle Vaccination Program

The Wayne County Extension Council is sponsoring an evening program about cattle vaccines and health. Dr. Craig Payne, DVM with the University of Missouri in Columbia, will present the program on March 4th, starting at 6 pm in the Greenville High School. Cost for the program is \$5 per person. **Pre-registration is required by March 1st** by calling the Wayne County Extension Office at 573-224-5600 ext.8.

Other Points of Interest

Goat Conference on March 5th at Jefferson City. For more information, contact Charlotte-Clifford Rathert, Small Ruminant Specialist by calling 573-681-5540.

Sheep Shearing School on March 17 in Jefferson City. For more information, contact Helen Swartz, Sheep & Goat Specialist by calling 573-681-5540 or by e-mail at swartzh@lincolnu.edu

SEMO Bull Sale on March 26th at Farmington Livestock Auction. For more information, contact Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist at 573-224-5600 ext.8 or by e-mail at: grahamkk@missouri.edu. (The SEMO Bull Sale Report can be found on the web at www.semobeeff.com).

Sheep Conference & 4-H Camp on March 27 in Jefferson City, contact Helen Swartz

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ March 4 - Cattle Vaccination Program
- ◆ March 5 - Goat Conference
- ◆ March 8 - Small Farm Conference
- ◆ March 17 - Sheep Shearing School
- ◆ March 26 - SEMO Bull Sale
- ◆ March 27 - Sheep Conference & 4-H Camp



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Operating In the Green

For many Missouri farmers facing increasingly shrinking profit margins—the difference between operating in the black and operating in the red may well be determined by whether they're operating in the "green". While many factors facing farmers are beyond their control, such as the weather and the markets, there is an important factor within their control—energy usage.

To aid farmers in improving energy efficiency and their bottom line, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is offering up to \$3 million statewide in cost-share grants to agricultural operations for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. The grants will fund up to 75 percent of the equipment and hardware cost of an energy saving project with a limit of \$5,000 per applicant. Labor costs will not be covered by the grant funds.

Some types of projects have been identified as likely to qualify for a cost-share grant, but the department is also looking for new and innovative prospects as well.

- **Solar Powered Systems**—Solar powered water pumps. Eligible projects include multiple pumps/systems. Eligible equipment includes pumps, controllers, photovoltaics or PV panels, water pipe, batteries and water storage tanks. Labor is not included. Panel watts are the total rated panel watts for all panels.
- **Insulated Waterers**—Eligible projects include multiple insulated tanks and frost-free waterers for cows, sheep and horses.

Anyone interested in receiving a cost-share grant should complete an application on the department's Web page. Funding for the agricultural energy efficient cost share program is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For more information, contact the Energy Center at 573-751-2254, call or visit the Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District office, or visit the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center's Web page at:

www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/EnergizeMissouriAgriculture

Cost-Share Program

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission has developed the cost-share program to provide financial incentives to help farmers and landowners install erosion-control practices. The program has helped conserve and assure the continued productivity of Missouri's soil and water resources, saving an estimated 137 million tons of soil.

The program provides in excess of \$20 million annually to Missouri landowners (up to 75 percent of all necessary costs incurred by the landowner). Approximately 6,000 practices are completed each year on agricultural land to reduce or abate soil erosion. A variety of practices are eligible to treat highly erodible cropland or to convert it to pasture or hayland.

Funds for the program come from the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax approved by voters and are administered by local soil & water conservation districts. Now is a good time to explore the different programs the soil and water district has to offer. Contact the district by calling 573-546-6518 or stop by the third floor of the Court House in Ironton.